NEWS RELEASE: 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Photography on Display
Contra Costa County Arts and Culture Commission presents a new Art Passages in Martinez

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A one-of-a-kind historical photography exhibit has debuted in the Art Passages Gallery located in the lobby of the Contra Costa County Administration Building at 651 Pine Street in Martinez. The exhibit will run through November 18, 2015. The exhibit includes more than sixty photographs portraying the images of ordinary soldiers, ordinary villagers and ordinary children trying to get through each day during an extraordinary conflict.

The exhibit, titled "An Ordinary Year, An Extraordinary Time," covers a 12 month experience in Vietnam shared by 500,000 American soldiers from June 1968 to June 1969. These images have been selected from more than 4,000 photos taken by Steven Burchik, an infantryman, while serving as a sergeant with the 1st Infantry Division. The exhibit covers themes that include "Patrols through Rivers and Jungles," "Rice Harvest," "Curious Children," and "Nighttime Pyrotechnics."

Hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday, and admission is free. The gallery is normally closed on weekends.

This exhibit will provide the backdrop for a special ceremony on Tuesday, November 10th at 11 AM, when the County Board of Supervisors will host its annual Veterans Day Ceremony in the Board Chamber at 651 Pine Street in Martinez. This year's ceremony will pay special tribute to Vietnam veterans, as 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the official start of the Vietnam War, when US ground troops were sent to the conflict. It also marks the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

In addition to his photographic work, Steven Burchik is also the author of *Compass and a Camera, A Year in Vietnam*, a memoir which describes how the images were captured during his tour with the army. Visit www.stevenburchik.com and go to the "GALLERY" section to view some of the photographs.

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